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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/900,204	07/06/2001	Barrie Jeremiah Mullins	ERLG.P026	4118

21121 7590 06/02/2004  
OPPEDAHL AND LARSON LLP  
P O BOX 5068  
DILLON, CO 80435-5068

EXAMINER

CONNOLLY, MARK A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2115

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/900,204

**Applicant(s)**

MULLINS ET AL.

**Examiner**

Mark Connolly

**Art Unit**

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-3 have been presented for examination.

#### *Specification*

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because on page 14 line 11, the word "communicatwa" should be corrected to "communicates". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al [Li] US Pat No 6532500 in view of Voegeli et al [Voegeli] US Pat No 6651178.

5. Referring to claim 1, Li teaches the invention substantially including:

- a. means for reading at least one signal indicative of an output supply level being provided to the backplane by a power supply unit [col. 1 lines 21-26 and col. 4 lines 23-30]. It is interpreted that reading occurs during the monitoring process in order to obtain the status information of the power supplies.
- b. memory for storing at least one value associated with a respective one of the at least one signal [col. 4 lines 29-30]. It is obvious that the power supply monitors comprise a memory because it performs I/O functions and it is well known that I/O

devices use input and output buffers when sending and receiving data. I/O buffers are interpreted as a memory.

c. means for communicating said at least one value to one of said devices [col. 1 lines 21-26]. It is interpreted that the reported status information is received at a device.

Although the Li system is primarily concerned with externally connected devices, it should be apparent that the teachings could also be applied to systems with internally connected devices as well.

Li does not explicitly teach a power supply unit controller (PSUC) and that the devices, including the PSUC, are powered through a backplane. Voegeli teaches a PSUC and powering devices, including the PSUC, through a backplane [col. 4 lines 10-24 and Fig. 1]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to power the devices in the Li system through a backplane because it provides a means to easily power multiple devices and also provides a way to add and remove devices and control the power being supplied to those devices. Additionally, it would be further obvious to include the PSUC into the Li system because it provides a means for the devices in the system to receive the correct power both during operation and initial power-on as taught by Voegeli [col. 4 lines 22-41].

6. Referring to claim 2, Voegeli teaches that the devices receive power from the backplane and that they are adapted to communicate with the PSUC [col. 4 lines 38-41 and Fig. 1].

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li and Voegeli as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Ote et al [Ote] US Pat No 5815652.

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8. Referring to claim 3, although the Li-Voegeli system teaches communicating status information through a SAF-TE protocol and having the system management devices communicate through the I/O controller [see Li col. 1 lines 21-40 and col. 4 lines 23-49], the system does not explicitly teach an Enclosure Services processor communicating with the I/O controller and that the Enclosure Services processor communicates with the PSUC. The I/O controller is interpreted as a bus controller. Ote teaches a service processor which is used to detect fault conditions and control the system power [Abstract]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Li-Voegeli system to include the service processor of Ote because it would provide a means to control the system power even during a fault condition as taught by Ote. It would be obvious that the service processor would communicate through the I/O controller because the service processor is a management device and Li teaches that management devices communicate through the I/O controller as explained above. Furthermore, because a fault condition is considered status information, it would also be obvious that this data would be sent via SAF-TE because Li also teaches that status information is sent via SAF-TE as explained above. Lastly, because the Li-Voegeli system controls the system power through a PSUC, it is obvious that the service processor would have a communication means with the PSUC so that the service processor could control the supply power when it is required to do so. The service processor is interpreted as a Enclosure Services processor.

### ***Conclusion***

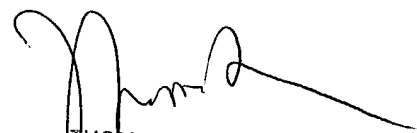
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Connolly whose telephone number is (703) 305-7849. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-5PM (except every first Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C Lee can be reached on (703) 305-9717. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark Connolly  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2115

mc  
May 27, 2004

  
THOMAS LEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100